

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EEC FR

SUBJECT: EC SUMMIT: THE US DIMENSION

REF: PARIS 29779

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EC COMMUNIQUE REFERENCES TO THE
US IN REGARD TO ECONOMIC POLICY AND ENERGY SUGGEST THAT
THE NINE HAVE DONE THEIR BEST TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR
A MEETING OF MINDS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE US AT
MARTINIQUE ON THESE ISSUES. THEY ARE PUBLIC TESTIMONY
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TO THE NEW SENSE OF INTERDEPENDENCE THAT ALL NINE

MEMBERS OF THE EC SEEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE (PARIS 29672) MAKES TWO KEY REFERENCES TO THE UNITED STATES. WE CONCLUDE THAT THESE REFERENCES DEMONSTRATE A RECOGNITION BY THE EC--INCLUDING FRANCE--THAT SOLUTIONS TO THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC AND ENERGY PROBLEMS CAN BE FOUND ONLY THROUGH A COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

3. BEYOND THIS, THE COMMUNIQUE'S STATEMENT (PARA 20) THAT THE EC NINE "DESIRE THAT, AT HIS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC SHOULD, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY, STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF CONVERGENCE BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF ALL INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES" IS A RECOGNITION THAT WHATEVER THE US DOES (OR DOES NOT DO) REGARDING ITS DOMESTIC POLICY WILL HAVE PROFOUND REPERCUSSIONS THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE.

4. THE COMMUNIQUE'S REFERENCE TO THE US WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ENERGY (PARA 32, "THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ATTACH VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE US AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC") SHOWS GISCARD'S FAILURE TO WIN A PUBLIC COMMITMENT FROM THE EC-EIGHT TO SUPPORT HIS TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON THE EVE OF THE MARTINIQUE SUMMIT. BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE SHOULD NOT READ THIS AS A TOTAL REJECTION OF GISCARD'S IDEA BY HIS EC ALLIES. INDEED WE ARE PERSUADED THAT THE IDEA OF A PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE HAS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND THAT THE EC-EIGHT HOPE THAT MARTINIQUE WILL PRODUCE A RESOLUTION OF THE FRANCO-AMERICAN DIFFERENCES OVER HOW THE WEST SHOULD ORGANIZE ITSELF TO MEET THE ENERGY CRISIS--BUILDING ON THE BEST PARTS OF EACH COUNTRY'S PROPOSALS. THAT IS THE REAL MESSAGE OF THE COMMUNIQUE'S PARA 32.

5. SEEN FROM PARIS, THESE TWO REFERENCES TO THE TRANS-ATLANTIC CONNECTION, COUPLED WITH THE EC COMMUNIQUE'S DISTINCT MUTING OF THE STRIDENT "EUROPEAN IDENTITY" THEME SO IMPORTANT TO THE FORMER GOF, UNDERLINE A NEW
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AND MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH BY THE NINE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, OF COURSE, THAT THE "EUROPEANISM" IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE HAS BEEN ABANDONED. IT DOES SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THE EUROPEANS--AND ESPECIALLY THE FRENCH--ARE PREPARED TO SEEK MORE COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION AND LESS CONFRONTATION WITH THE US OVER THE KEY ISSUES OF ECONOMIC POLICY AND ENERGY.
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